

CIX.

DR. LONDON TO SIR RICHARD RICH (?).

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 226.]

Right worshipfull, in my most hartie maner I have me commended unto yow, I have pullyd down the image of your lady at Caversham, with all trynkettes abowt the same, as schrowdes, candels, images of wexe, crowches, and brochys, and have thorowly defacyd that chapell in exchuyng of any farther resortt, ffor even at my being ther com in nott so few as a dosyn with imagies of wexe. The image ys thorowly platyd over with sylver. I have putt her in a chest fast lockyd and naylede, and by the next barge that comythe uppe it schall be browzt to my lorde, with her cootes, cappe, and here, with dyvers relykes, as the blessyd knyfe that kyllled seynt Edward, the dagger that kyllyd kinge Henry, schethe and all; and I myssed no thing here butt oonly a peece of the holy halter Judas wasse hangyd withall. Here song a chanon of Notley, wiche hadde conveyd home to hys master as great a relik as any of thees befor I com; butt I wyll have hym, and schall send yt to my lorde. And thys wek folowing I will send uppe Mr. Johan Schorn, and so as many as I fynde. I have occasion for my colledg besynes to go by Aylisbury and Bedford thys next wek, and as I suppose by Northampton. In all thees places be howsys of ffryers. If it be my lordes pleasur I will dispatche them quickly, ffor seying they wold fayne be abrode yt wer pytie to stay them. And in dyvers of thees howsys moche ydolytrie have be usyd, and the people sore abusyd. I besek yow remembre Mr. Knytes mater I have movyd yow in; and if by your gudnes it be browzt to passe, I know well yow will hereafter moche rejoyse yow dydd ytt. My servant schall be with yow thys wek to bringe uppe the Fryers surrendre, with the relykes of Caversham, and schall also bring yow a tokyn in parchement undre

the covent seale from the abbott and covent here.* He desyrethe oonly your favour, and no other thinge; and I know so moche that my lord schall fynde hym as conformable a man as any in thys realme, as more at lardg I will tell yow at the begynnyng of the terme, by the grace of Godd, who with increse of moche worschippe longe preserve yow. At Reding, xvij^o Septemberis.

Your most bounden oratour,
JOHAN LONDON.

CX.

DR. LONDON TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 223.]

In my most humble maner I have me commendyd unto your gudde lordeschippe, with my assured prayer and service, I have sent upp to your lordeschippe the surrender of the Grey Fryers of Reding, with ther plate, suche as yt ys. I have inwardly defacyd the churche and dorter; the resydew of the howse I have left hole till I know your farther pleasur, and clerly dispacchyd all the fryers owt of the doores in ther seculer apparell, and have geven to every oon of theym mony in ther purcys, and have clerly payd ther dettes. Thys ys a towne of moch power people, and they fell to steling so fast in every corner of the howse, that I have be fayne to tary a hole wek here to sett every thing in dew ordre, and have and schall receyve to the kinges grace use I trust above xli^{li}. The mansion holy reservyd. I have sent upp the principall relik of idolytrie within thys realme, an aungell with oon wyng that browȝt to Caversham the spere hedde that pereyd our Saviour is syde upon the crosse. It wasse conveyd home to

* Reading Abbey was not dissolved till the year following, when the abbot was hanged.